

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2006

**JUSTICE KILBRIDE ANNOUNCES THREE APPLICANTS FOR NINTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT VACANCY**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride announced Friday that three candidates have applied for the Circuit Court vacancy which will become available in the 9th Judicial Circuit when Judge Larry Heiser retires December 31.

The names of the three candidates who have responded to the application notice for the 9th Circuit vacancy are attorneys Paul Mangieri, Tracey Mergener, and Steven Watts.

These are the only three candidates who have applied and who will be considered for the vacancy.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court holds the authority to fill judicial vacancies on an interim basis. Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make recommendations to the Court for vacancies in the Third Judicial District. Justice Kilbride is also inviting the public to comment on the applicants.

To aid him in forwarding a recommended candidate to the Supreme Court, Justice Kilbride also is forming a judicial advisory committee that will be made up of representatives from the community, including non-lawyers as well as members of the legal profession.

In addition to requiring an extensive written application, the appointment process used by Justice Kilbride consists of a written survey of registered attorneys in the 9th Circuit. That survey is conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association, and is now underway. The selection process Justice Kilbride uses also requires background checks with the Illinois State Police, other authorities and with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

Those wishing to send written comments about the candidates during the selection process may address them to: Judge Appointment Comments 9th Circuit, Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, 3101 Old Jacksonville Rd., Springfield, IL 62704. Comments must arrive by 11:30 a.m. on Monday December 11. Comments must

include contact information such as name and address, and should be brief, preferably no more than 250 words.

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Among qualities an applicant must possess include a demonstrated reputation for integrity and good character; a demonstrated commitment to equal justice under law; outstanding legal ability and competence; and the appropriate demeanor, character and personality necessary for the judicial temperament required by a Circuit Court judge.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until December 1, 2008, when the position will be filled by the election in November 2008.

The 9th Judicial Circuit includes Knox, Warren, Henderson, Hancock, McDonough and Fulton counties.

The Third Judicial District is composed of 21 counties across the north central part of the state, stretching from Will, Kankakee and Iroquois counties in the east to Whiteside, Rock Island, Peoria, Mercer, Henderson and Hancock in the west.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the
Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)**